

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 ABU DH 01027 01 OF 02 031246Z  
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W  
-----031254Z 044018 /50  
P 031110Z APR 77  
FM AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5897

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 ABU DHABI 1027

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS : PFOR, TC  
SUBJECT : MESSAGE FOR UAE PRESIDENT SHAIKH ZAYID FROM PRESIDENT  
CARTER

REF: STATE 67621

SUMMARY: ZAYID PLEASED TO RECEIVE SPECIAL MESSAGE FROM  
PRESIDENT GIVING OUR ASSESSMENT OF HOW WE SEE PROSPECTS  
FOR MIDDLE EAST PEACEMAKING PROCESS. TIMING PARTICULARLY  
GOOD IN VIEW OF CONTINUED PRESSURES INTERNALLY AND EXTER-  
NALLY ON ZAYID TO CHANGE HIS POSITION ON ENERGY ISSUES.  
END SUMMARY.

1. I MET WITH UAE PRESIDENT SHAIKH ZAYID MORNING APRIL 3  
TO DELIVER PRESIDENT CARTER'S MESSAGE (REFTEL) GIVING  
OUR ASSESSMENT OF PROSPECTS FOR RESUMING THE PEACEMAKING  
PROCESS IN THE MIDDLE EAST. THIS WAS ZAYID'S FIRST FULL  
WORKING DAY BACK IN ABU DHABI, HAVING BEEN ABSENT FOR  
PAST WEEK VISITING AL AIN AND OTHER AGRICULTURAL AREAS  
IN NORTHERN EMIRATES. AFTER MEETING WAS UNDERWAY, WE  
WERE JOINED BY ALI SHURAFI, DIRECTOR OF THE PRESIDENTIAL  
COURT.

2. ZAYID WAS IN AN EXPANSIVE MOOD AND LOOKED RESTED.  
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HE WAS OBVIOUSLY PLEASED AND FLATTERED TO RECEIVE THIS  
PRIVATE MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT WHICH I READ TO HIM  
IN ARABIC. I SAID IT WAS A SPECIAL MESSAGE WHICH HAD  
NOT BEEN SENT TO OTHER ARAB LEADERS AND WHICH REFLECTED  
PRESIDENT CARTER'S APPRECIATION FOR THE VERY CONSTRUCT-  
IVE ROLE WHICH ZAYID HAD PLAYED IN RECENT MONTHS ON  
WORLD ENERGY AND FINANCIAL ISSUES. IT WAS ALSO A RE-

FLECTION OF OUR UNDERSTANDING OF WHAT THE UAEG, THROUGH ITS MODERATION, HOPES TO CONTRIBUTE TO PEACE PROCESS IN MIDDLE EAST AND TO WORLD'S ECONOMIC HEALTH. ZAYID ASKED ME TO THANK THE PRESIDENT FOR HIS MESSAGE NOTING THAT IT HAD COME JUST BEFORE PRESIDENT CARTER WILL MEET WITH PRESIDENT SADAT. HE WAS LOOKING FORWARD TO LEARN THE RESULTS OF THAT MEETING AND THAT OF THE OTHER ARAB LEADERS, AND HOPED THAT US WOULD BE ABLE TO ADHERE TO ITS PROPOSED TIMETABLE FOR THE GENEVA CONFERENCE DURING THE SECOND HALF OF 1977.

3. DURING THE CONVERSATION, ZAYID PICKED UP THE PRESIDENT'S THEME OF THE CRUSHING ECONOMIC BURDEN OF MAINTAINING MILITARY ESTABLISHMENTS, PARTICULARLY IN THE MIDDLE EAST. MANY PEOPLE RECOGNIZED THAT THE LONGER THIS LASTED, THE GREATER WAS THE DANGER THAT IT WOULD BREED SOCIAL REVOLUTIONS AND A VICIOUS CIRCLE OF NEW WARS IN THE AREA. ALL PEOPLES OF THE MIDDLE EAST HAVE RISING EXPECTATIONS AND WANT TO USE THEIR RESOURCES FOR CULTURAL, EDUCATIONAL AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT SO THEY AND THEIR CHILDREN CAN LIVE A BETTER, MORE PRODUCTIVE LIFE. THERE WAS NOT A SINGLE RESPONSIBLE ARAB LEADER WHO DID NOT SHARE THIS GOAL AND WHO WAS NOT READY TO SUPPORT STEPS FOR A FINAL AND JUST PEACE IN THE REGION.

4. ZAYID MENTIONED THAT HE HAD RECEIVED A GREAT DEAL OF CRITICISM OVER THE OIL PRICE ISSUE. HE HAD BEEN ASKED WHY HE HAD FOLLOWED THE SAUDI POSITION, WHAT WAS IT TO HIM, AND WHY DID HE NOT LOOK AFTER THE UAE'S OWN BEST

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INTERESTS? HIS REPLY HAD BEEN THAT FIRST OF ALL, THE UAE HAD TAKEN THIS POSITION BECAUSE HE THOUGHT IT WAS IN HIS OWN COUNTRY'S BEST INTEREST TO DO SO. THE WORLD ECONOMY WAS WEAK, HE HAD NOT WANTED TO PRESENT NEW ADMINISTRATION IN WASHINGTON WITH ANOTHER PROBLEM, AND WANTED TO DO WHAT HE COULD TO SUPPORT CAUSE OF PEACE IN MIDDLE EAST. BUT THIS CRITICISM HAD NOT ABATED. AS AN EXAMPLE, WHEN HE HAD ATTENDED THE RECENT ARAB-AFRICAN SUMMIT IN CAIRO, HE HAD BEEN APPROACHED BY AN EMISSARY FROM QADHAFI, WHO HAD ASKED WHY ZAYID COOPERATED WITH SAUDI ARABIA WHICH IN THE PAST HAD USED UNRESOLVED BOUNDARY PROBLEMS TO ITS (SAUDI ARABIA'S) ADVANTAGE. THE LIBYANS HAD ALSO ASKED THAT UAE NOT INCREASE ITS OIL PRODUCTION. ZAYID HAD TOLD THE EMISSARY UAE HAD TAKEN THIS ACTION NOT BECAUSE IT WAS GOOD FOR SAUDIS BUT BECAUSE IT WAS GOOD FOR WORLD. AS AN ASIDE, HE VOLUNTEERED THAT HE WAS STUDYING THE QUESTION OF INCREASED UAE OIL PRODUCTION BUT ADMITTED THERE WAS A GOOD DEAL OF INTERNAL OPPOSITION TO THIS JUST AS THERE WERE

PRESSURES TO REACH A COMPROMISE ON OIL PRICE ISSUE  
BECAUSE OF RISING BUDGETARY DEMANDS FOR INTERNAL PRO-  
JECTS AS WELL AS FOREIGN AID.

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5898

C O N F I D E N T A L SECTION 2 OF 2 ABU DHABI 1027

EXDIS

5. ZAYID SAID THAT WORLD WAS WAITING WITH GREAT ANTI-  
CIPATION TO SEE WHAT US WILL BE ABLE TO DO THIS YEAR.  
"ONLY THE US CAN PLAY THE ROLE OF THE DRIVER--EVERYONE  
ELSE IS IN THE BACK SEAT--IN STEERING THE MIDDLE EAST  
AWAY FROM THE VICIOUS CIRCLE OF WAR AND THIS IS A  
LONELY AND DIFFICULT POSITION TO BE IN." HE WELCOMED  
THE PROSPECT OF RECEIVING PERIODICALLY OUR ASSESSMENT  
OF HOW WE SEE MIDDLE EAST AND OTHER MAJOR WORLD DEVELOP-  
MENTS, WHICH I PROMISED I WOULD TRY TO DO WHENEVER POSSIBLE.  
THE BALANCE OF MEETING TOUCHED ON HIS VISIT TO SOUTH  
YEMEN, REPORTED SEPARATELY.

6. COMMENT: I THINK TIMING OF THE MESSAGE WAS A GOOD  
ONE AND HELPFUL IN REMINDING ZAYID OF OUR APPRECIATION  
FOR WHAT HE HAS DONE, PARTICULARLY AT THIS TIME WHEN  
UAE LEADERSHIP IS FEELING CRITICISM FROM VARIOUS  
QUARTERS FOR ITS CLOSE COOPERATION WITH SAUDIS ON  
ENERGY ISSUES. IT WAS ALSO HELPFUL FOR MY PERSONAL  
RELATIONS WITH ZAYID SINCE IT WAS FIRST TIME WE HAVE  
HAD A PRIVATE MEETING.

7. DEPT PLEASE REPT IF DESIRED TO JIDDA, TEHRAN, DOHA,  
AND KUWAIT.  
DICKMAN

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## Message Attributes

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**Decaption Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
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**TAGS:** PFOR, PPDC, TC, XF, (ZAYID, SHAIKH)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
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